

Thank you for your recent e-mail to Governor Musgrove and for your interest in qualified teachers, Elizabeth. Governor Musgrove believes that increasing teacher pay to the southeastern average is necessary in order to attract and retain qualified teachers. New accountability measures will also assist the Department of Education in identifying those teachers who need assistance in improving their effectiveness.

SB 2488, passed during the 2000 Regular Session, and commonly referred to as the 2000 Educational Accountability Bill, provides for schools to be evaluated based on students achieving a grade-level proficiency or based on students exceeding an annual growth expectation in the number of students not testing at grade-level proficiency, but who are showing improvement. Schools not meeting established growth expectations or grade-level proficiency standards will be designated Priority Schools. A 7-member evaluation team (appointed by the State Superintendent and approved by the State Board of Education) will be sent to these Priority Schools to identify personnel in need of professional development and to assist in the development and evaluation of improvement plans for the school. Identified personnel will be given two years to improve and may be dismissed after two years if improvement is not made.

Thank you again for your e-mail and good luck in your endeavors.